

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00278 131806Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 SY-05 A-01 CPR-01
DHA-02 /062 W
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O R 131730Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 355
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 0278

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN, US
SUBJECT: EMBASSY PROTEST NOTE ON JANUARY 9TH EVENTS

HEREWITH IS COPY OF EMBASSY NOTE OF PROTEST ON EVENTS
OF JANUARY 9TH WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTER
AT 11:30 A.. JANUARY 13.

QUOTE: EXCELLENCY: I HAVE THE HONOR TO BRING TO YOUR
EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION SEVERAL DEPLORABLE ACTIONS OF
PANAMANIAN CITIZENS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE CANAL ZONE ON
JANUARY 9, 1977.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE
TRAGIC EVENTS OF THIRTEEN YEARS AGO WHICH ARE COMMEMORATED
ON PANAMA'S NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING. IN PAST YEARS,
IN ORDER TO MITIGATE TENSIONS WHICH MIGHT ARISE ON THAT
HOLIDAY AND TO MODERATE ANY POSSIBLE UNTOWARD INCIDENTS
BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH MIGHT MAR IT,
AUTHORITIES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF PANAMA AND CANAL
ZONE POLICE REPRESENTATIVES KEPT IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH ONE
ANOTHER WITH REGARD TO JANUARY 9 CEREMONIES. THIS WAS
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NOT THE CASE THIS YEAR. INSTEAD NATIONAL GUARD AUTHORITIES
INFORMED U.S. MILITARY LIAISON OFFICERS THAT THEY
EXPECTED A COMMEMORATIVE MARCH AND THAT SOME OF THE
MARCHERS MIGHT TRANSIT 4TH OF JULY AVENUE, PART OF
THE CANAL ZONE. THE NATIONAL GUARD AUTHORITIES REQUESTED
THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO ESCORT THE MARCHERS TO ENSURE
THAT WHATEVER PROTEST TOOK PLACE WOULD NOT GET

OUT OF HAND.

EXCELLENCY, I MUST PROTEST CERTAIN ACTS COMMITTED BY CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. ON JANUARY 9. APPROXIMATELY 125 PARTICIPANTS IN THAT COMMEMORATIVE MARCH DID NOT SIMPLY TRANSIT 4TH OF JULY AVENUE, BUT WENT DIRECTLY TO THE SITE OF THE OLD TIVOLI HOTEL. THERE, THEY MADE SPEECHES OFFENSIVE TO MY COUNTRY. THE MARCHERS WERE ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF PANAMA. FROM THE TIVOLI SITE, THE MARCHERS PROCEEDED TO THE AREA OF THE ANCON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WHERE AFTER MAKING FURTHER INSULTING SPEECHES, THEY BURNED A UNITED STATES FLAG. THIS UNFORGIVABLE ACTION IS AN INSULT TO THE DIGNITY OF ANY NATION, AND I VIGOROUSLY PROTEST IT. TWO OTHER, SMALLER BUT UNFORTUNATE, INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE CANAL ZONE DURING THE DAY, ONE IN THE COCOLI TOWNSITE, AND THE OTHER ON CONTRACTOR'S HILL.

DESPITE PROVOCATIONS BY PANAMANIAN CITIZENS, THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO LIVES OR PROPERTY IN THE CANAL ZONE. RESIDENTS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE CANAL ZONE EXERCISED GREAT RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF THESE INFLAMMATORY ACTIONS. I AM SURE THAT AUTHORITIES OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT REALIZE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE AN INHERENT DANGER OF ESCALATION WITH UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES. I THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA TAKE EVERY

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ACTION TO AVOID A RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS, WHICH DETRACT FROM THE BASIC FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAS EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND ONLY SERVE TO NEEDLESSLY INFLAME PASSIONS AMONG CITIZENS OF BOTH OUR NATIONS.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. UNQUOTE.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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